Airlines Corporations, permitted to operate in India;

(b) what is the number of private Airlines Corporations which have been permitted to operate in India; and

(c) whether private sector is allowed to construct airports, to be owned and operated by the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Private employers are free to offer any emoluments and other terms and conditions of service. Government have no control over them.

(b) At present, nine Air Taxi operators have been permitted to operate air taxi services in India.

(c) Yes, Sir subject to approval by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

New International Airports in the Country

41. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the new international airports which are proposed to be set up in the country and by when they are likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): The existing international airports are sufficient to cater to the international air traffic at present.

Attracting Foreign Tourists in the Country

42. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the steps Government are taking to increase the number of foreign tourists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): The steps being taken by the Government to increase the inflow of foreign tourists to the country include improvement of infrastructural facilities, intensive development of specific circuits and special tourism areas and strengthening of publicity campaigns in the tourist generating markets.

Setting up of a new air field in North-East region

43. SHRI MATANG SING: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to construct an air-field in the North-East region during the next five years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) North Eastern Council has suggested that an airport may be provided at Lengpui, National Airports Authority is however not in a position to undertake this project because of the prohibitively high cost of the order of Rs. 70 crores.

Development of new areas in North Eastern Region for tourism during next five years

44. SHRI MATANG SING: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to develop new areas for tourism in the North Eastern region during the next five years; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Development of new areas for Tourism is primarily the responsibility of